

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

FBIS-0167/85

STAT

Director, Foreign Broadcast
Information Service

DATE

12 April 1985

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S
INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1. DDS&T JASON Studies
Coordinator
Room 6E45 - Headquarters

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FBIS-0167/85
12 April 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDS&T JASON Studies Coordinator

FROM:

Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

STAT

SUBJECT: 1985 JASON Contract

REFERENCE: Your memo dtd 8 Apr 85, Same Subject

Attached is an FBIS suggestion for the 85 JASON contract. A thoughtful consideration of communications in the future with FBIS in mind would be interesting and possibly stimulate thinking about a long-term modernization program.

STAT

Attachment

DDS&T/FBIS/(11Apr85)

STAT

Distribution:

Original - Addressee

1 - D/FBIS Chrono

1 - C/SDS (ATTN:)

1 - FBIS Registry

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TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN TRENDS IN MEDIA

The Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) has successfully monitored the open media for over 40 years. Through 17 worldwide bureaus radio broadcasts, press agencies, and television are routinely monitored and made available to consumers. This service of common concern is accomplished in support of the entire U.S. Government with the results made available to many foreign governments. An important aspect of the FBIS service is the timeliness of the product. To this end monitored broadcasts are forwarded electronically to FBIS Headquarters in Washington for near real-time relay to consumers.

FBIS is engaged in a Modernization Program which will be complete by 1990. One important aspect of this effort is to automate FBIS procedures and increase overall productivity through the use of ADP technology. A second aspect, in response to a worldwide trend toward satellite communications, ensures satellite monitoring capability at selected bureaus. High interest material including television video will be forwarded to Headquarters via a commercially-procured communications system, involving INTELSAT.

Communications technology is evolving at a tremendous rate. The current FBIS Modernization initiative will at best keep pace. More likely, FBIS will fall behind as the communications revolution, driven by continuing advances in technology, defines capabilities not now anticipated. Is large-screen display in a paperless society a possible replacement for the newspapers? Will bandwidth become so inexpensive that video will play a more important role? Can major changes in the technical aspects of communication be anticipated? Answers to these and related questions are important to planning for the future.

FBIS is directly concerned with all aspects of media communications including reception, recording, demodulation, processing to include voice translation, and delivery to customers. In what directions should a continuing modernization effort proceed in order to ensure customer satisfaction in the year 2000?